

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/942,116

Examiner

Fred Ferris

Applicant(s)

WHEELER ET AL.

Art Unit

2128

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 23 May 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3, 5-8 and 10-15.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Fred Ferris
FRED FERRIS
Primary Examiner
7/2/06

DETAILED ACTION

1. *This Office Action is responsive to applicant's amendment filed 23 May 2006. Applicants have now cancelled claims 4, 9, and 16-24. Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-15 remain pending in this application and were previously allowed over the prior art of record. Accordingly, the application is now in condition for allowance.*

Response to Arguments

2. *Applicant's arguments filed 23 May 2006 with respect to claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The previous rejection 103(a) of the now pending claims was previously withdrawn.*

Allowable Subject Matter

3. *Claims 1-3, 5-8, and 10-15 are allowed.*

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants are disclosing a method and apparatus for simulating a logic design that includes storing and identifying logic design node values (high, low, defined, and undefined) and subsequently performing three or four state simulation of the logic design. This has been disclosed in the prior art of record. (See: Bushard, Jain, for example) However, independent claims 1, 6, and 11 include a specific sequence of method steps and arrangement of apparatus elements that includes storing of a first, second, and third state based respectively upon the identification of a simulation logic design node having a high, low, and undefined state value, and subsequently performing a three state simulation based the three states, and further upon the

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determination of a successful three state simulation, and based on whether the output node has an undefined state with the three state simulation being successful if the output node is a defined state performing a four state simulation of the logic design, which is not explicitly disclosed in the combination thereof or rendered obvious by the prior art of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred Ferris whose telephone number is 571-272-3778 and whose normal working hours are 8:30am to 5:00pm Monday to Friday. Any inquiry of a general nature relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is 571-272-3700. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamini Shah can be reached at 571-272-2279. The Official Fax Number is: (703) 872-9306

Fred Ferris, Primary Examiner
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